



DEAF SERVICES COMMISSION OF IOWA

Commission Meeting
Saturday, February 2, 2013
Pleasant Hill Public Library
5151 Maple Drive
Pleasant Hill, Iowa
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The DSCI Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Theresa Legg at 10:00 a.m.

Members present: Theresa Legg, Jennifer Keaton, Tina Kastendieck, and Bob Vizzini

Members absent: Nathaniel Garrels, Dr. James Snyder and Jennifer Upah

Staff members present: Jill Avery, Heidi Smith, CAS Administrator, Stephanie Lyons, Lynsie Crawford and Linda Scott

Ex-Officio: San Wong, Director, DHR

Interpreters: Jeff Reese, Renee Johnson, Kelsey Thomas and Julia Matson

Commissioners, staff and interpreters were introduced, visitors recognized and ground rules for the meeting established.

Approval of Minutes from November 3, 2012:

Motion #13-06: There being no additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes of the November 3, 2012 meeting, motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Keaton/Kastendieck All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner/Committee Reports

Mental Health Report:

Keaton: The legislature is in the middle of mental health redesign throughout the state and we're on a long waiting list for specific services and different providers. Until the legislature passes a bill we continue to wait – not just the deaf community, but everyone in the mental health system.

Accessible Legal Representation:

Kastendieck has had brief conversations with Dr. Snyder. Since some cities have recently elected new sheriffs, she feels that it would be good to make sure their offices have updated information on getting interpreters, and answering any questions they might have about the deaf and hard of hearing who might come through their facilities either in a positive or negative way.

Licensed Sign Language Interpreters:

Vizzini: Garrels and Vizzini have not had an opportunity to get together to discuss the issue. He would like to begin setting up focus groups or meetings on the subject. It was done about a year ago just to visit with the community about different issues and he feels we're at a

standstill right now. He pointed out a couple of pieces of information to the commission and community:

- 1) would like more information on Senate Bill 314 pertaining to interpreters in the courts. He's not received an update and would like to know where it stands. He feels the commissioners need to talk with supporters of the bill before proceeding.
- 2) discussed a Time magazine article where 32,000+ people have signed a petition and sent it to the White House wanting ASL to be used in the public schools. Numbers are increasing and Iowa recognizes ASL in colleges, but in the public schools, they tend to use SEE. The White House hasn't crafted a response yet, but the President may soon be commenting on the subject.

Kastendieck asked Vizzini if he was satisfied with the interpreting in public schools and the education system. Vizzini expressed a concern about licensed interpreters in the schools at this point, hoping that those who are temporarily licensed do not lose their license before expiration July 2013. The real concern to him is, if they lose their license, who will provide interpretation to the deaf children. There is a team of professionals going around to the various schools doing assessments, seeing how to assist the temporarily licensed interpreters in passing their licensure requirements and advancing their skills.

Staff Reports:

Avery:

- commissioner packets were sent by e-mail and US mail. She highlighted some of the items on the quarterly report.
- was unable to attend the EDHI meeting this quarter, but Crawford attended in her place. Avery plans to attend the April 4 meeting.
- also plans to begin attending the Central Iowa Hearing Loss Association (CIHLA) meetings.
- discussed JCP camp. Staff has been meeting with Y officials and in early May should know if we will be able to hold JCP Camp the summer of 2014. An update should be available at the May commission meeting.

Kastendieck asked if there were other planned activities for deaf children this summer. Avery advised that there was nothing planned through Deaf Services, but ISD does have some planned camps and Keaton added that there are some summer activities and events scheduled for children with disabilities K-12. If anyone would like more information, please let Keaton know and she will get the information out. Kastendieck also has information available about other camps and if anyone wants the information, she can send it out.

- touched on the Bhutanese deaf project that Crawford will be speaking about in her report.

Crawford:

- talked about the deaf Bhutanese refugees and learning ASL. At the November 2012 meeting, the commission was told that the nine (9) refugees had no language base and

Crawford asked for suggestions on volunteers providing transportation or help in teaching them ASL, but so far, there haven't been any volunteers who have come

forward. Crawford asked the commission and attendees again if they knew of anyone willing to volunteer to provide services, to let her or Sonya Kaiser from Deaf Action Center (DAC) know . This would be a commitment of one (1) hour per week.

Keaton wondered if Crawford had thought about contacting deaf clubs or ISD to see if they'd be willing to help. Crawford thought that would be a good idea. Kastendieck asked if the church sponsor was Lutheran and if so, she might have a source of assistance. Crawford informed the commissioners that it was not, but the reason they attended this particular church was because it was close to their home. Kastendieck would still like information to see if the families would be open to attending a different church – it might be that she could help reach out to the group and be able to get someone to provide transportation.

Additional discussion took place about the refugees and possible sources of help and support.

Lyons:

- addressed the Feasibility Study Committee plan. Recommendations were sent to the Board of Regents and they will, at some point, take action, making a decision from those recommendations. February 6th, the Board of Regents will hold their meeting and sometime between 12:45-4:30 p.m. the topic of ISD will be discussed and more information will be brought out at that time.
- Senate Bill 314 that Vizzini brought up came up before the Board of Interpreters and Translitterators and they were asked to share the information with the community and commission. If anyone has comments, support or dissention about the Bill, please contact someone on the Board about your concerns. The Board acts on licensure, education of interpreters, and discipline issues having to do with licensed interpreters. Bills having to do with some of these general issues like interpreting in the courts, are things on which the community needs to voice their support or concerns. The commission talked about the numbers and percentages of permanently licensed and temporary licensed interpreters.
- Deaf Capitol Day, March 5. There is a flyer available for distribution and can be found near the sign-in sheet. Discussed the upcoming event and speakers on the agenda. Crawford is working on booths and exhibits for the day.

Director Wong:

- as was done last year, DHR will be holding an Open House on Thursday, February 21, 2013 from 7:30-9:00 a.m. and everyone is invited to stop by. The Governor and Lt. Governor will be in attendance; legislators and elected officials/department heads and our community partners have been sent an invitation as well.
- 24 Community Outreach meetings have been conducted by Smith and staff around the state. The last two will be held in Storm Lake and Denison on February 8. Those two meetings complete all of the meetings that have been scheduled, but more may be scheduled for later this year. Commissioners are encouraged to attend. Upah attended one in Dubuque and Legg attended one held in Cedar Rapids. A report of all of the

meetings is being compiled, and once complete, Smith will put together a statewide report and will share the information with all commissions.

Smith:

- we have a new Executive Officer within the CAS division. Sanjita Shrestha joined the division last week and will be working closely with Crawford on the deaf refugee project. Shrestha will work with everyone in CAS, overseeing the offices of Status of Asian Pacific Islander Affairs and Status of Women.

Public Comment:

Kathy Miller:

- a) next IAD Board Meeting is Saturday, February 23, 2013 at Northstar Community, Waterloo, IA. Smith is planning to attend.
- b) March 5 is Deaf Capitol Day and she outlined events for the day.
- c) IAD Conference will be held July 25-27, 2013. Reviewed the proposed agenda, and costs for attending. Information is on the IAD website.

Vizzini: Everyone has been asking about Deaf Coalition of Iowa (DCI). They've been working on getting community feedback about the Feasibility Study and the Board of Regents and ISD, with DCI acting as a "watchdog". DCI's mission is to ensure that deaf children receive an education and the functional equivalency to their hearing peers.

DCI provided a legislative training workshop on December 15, 2012 and had a good turnout. DCI members met with ISD Superintendent Clancy receiving feedback and having a discussion with updates. The group has 14 members who are audiologists, educators, AEA staff, and VR staff. There is only one deaf individual on the "team" and would like to have more deaf participate in the group. He pointed out that the Feasibility Study Committee only has three (3) deaf people out of 22 members who serve.

Old Business:

Contractual Interpreting Program Funds –

For the period October 5, 2012-January 11, 2013, the office has received eight (8) requests for contractual interpreting funds. Two (2) for weddings and six (6) for funerals. \$3,500 remains in the account to June 30, 2013.

After some discussion, it was pointed out that it would be nice to increase the fund from \$5,000 to maybe \$10,000 to make sure that anyone wanting to be served would be assured that there was money there to take care of the request. To date, 15 requests have been received, with \$100.00 per request paid to the interpreter.

A request to increase funding had been proposed in previous years, but we've been allowed only \$5,000. Prior to November 2011, \$150.00 per request had been paid out, but Deaf Services found that at that amount, the account was exhausted before the end of the fiscal year. So commissioners decided to allow \$100.00 from November 2011 to the present so that the contractual interpreting fund could last to the end of each fiscal year. Any funding that remains in the account at the end of the fiscal year does not roll over to the next year. We start each July 1 with \$5,000 and hope that it doesn't run out before June 30 of that next year.

Vizzini would like to discuss increasing funding at the next meeting and suggested that it be placed on the agenda as New Business. Kastendieck reminded everyone that we're just

getting into the wedding, family reunion, graduation party season and we may be getting more requests before June 30, 2013 and the money that remains could run out before that time.

Keaton would like to see something in the E-News or as a handout for the community that would tell them what is covered by the ADA and what is not. The community needs to be educated on the subject.

Lyons asked for a document that would give the commissioners a rundown on the number of requests received over the past few years, outlining what the requests were for, how much was expended during the year and any funds remaining, if any. Kastendieck agreed and asked if the document could go back to 2008-2012 and that might eliminate some of the questions coming up at this meeting. A report will be prepared and sent out with the next meeting packet.

New Business:

Proclamation - Deaf Awareness Month:

Avery: A couple of commissioners proposed having a Proclamation for Deaf Awareness Week or Deaf Awareness Month. Lyons sent out a copy of a Proclamation from October 1999, however, that wording was from the World Federation of the Deaf. Those interested in the Proclamation would like to see different wording in this new document. Avery asked for a couple of commissioners to volunteer to begin working on wording to be placed in the Proclamation. When finished, forward the information to her for editing and she will bring it back to the May meeting for approval and then on to the Governor's office for processing. The Governor's office will need at least six (6) weeks advance notice to prepare the Proclamation and back to us by early October.

MOTION #13-07:: Moved that Vizzini and Keaton work together on language to put in the Proclamation for Deaf Awareness Month for October 13, 2013. **Vizzini/Keaton** All in favor, motion carried.

Announcements: None

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 12:48 a.m.

Theresa Legg, Chair

Linda Scott, Secretary